



Carbon monoxide poisoning is a pervasive yet preventable threat in the United States, causing significant harm each year. UL Standards & Engagement has developed the CO Risk Readiness Assessment to evaluate how effectively each U.S. state addresses CO risks.

*The labels "Worst" and "Best" correspond to the lowest and highest scores states achieved within each category: code and regulatory strength, public awareness, and incidence prevention.*

## Texas

### Recommendations:

- **Mandate Basic CO Alarm Requirements:** Require CO alarms that adhere to safety standards in all new and existing commercial, mixed-use, and residential buildings.
- **Launch Initial Public Outreach:** Launch targeted campaigns to educate vulnerable populations (e.g., renters, elderly, and low-income households) and establish statewide CO awareness programs.
- **Develop Emergency Response Programs:** Train first responders and healthcare professionals to handle CO poisoning cases effectively.
- **Collaborate with Federal Agencies:** Seek guidance and resources from organizations like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to develop robust CO safety initiatives.
- **Monitor and Evaluate Progress:** Establish systems to track CO-related incidents and measure the effectiveness of new policies.

See the next page for more information on tier recommendations.

## CO SAFETY STARTER

# Texas

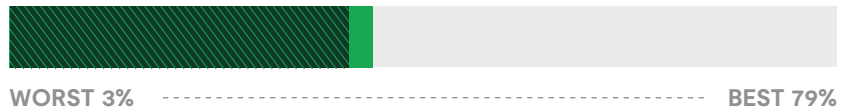


● Texas Average

● U.S. Average

### Health Outcomes Score

● 44% ● 41%



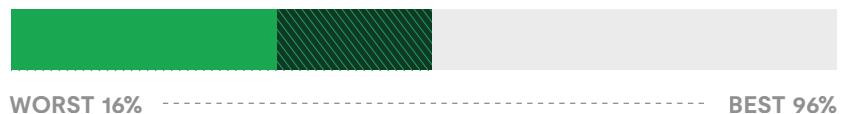
### Code & Regulatory Strength Score

● 10% ● 72%



### Public Awareness & Behavior Score

● 32% ● 51%



### Quick Texas Stats:

Average winter temperature:	47.2°F
Population:	29,145,505
Median household income:	\$75,780
Households using a fuel source potentially putting residents at risk of CO exposure:	84%
January 2024 heating degree days: <small>HDD shows how cold a month was based on days below 65°F—higher values mean more heating needed</small>	599



Scan the QR code or visit  
[ULSE.org/CO-risk-assessment](https://ulse.org/CO-risk-assessment)  
for the full report & methodology

Recommendations	States
CO Safety Champion	
<p> <b>Sustain and Evolve Public Awareness Campaigns:</b> Continue public education on CO risks, symptoms, and prevention measures via social media, schools, community events, and regular public service announcements during high-risk times for your state, updating content as new risks and technologies emerge.</p> <p> <b>Expand Technology Integration:</b> Promote the adoption of smart CO alarms that integrate with home automation systems, enabling real-time alerts and remote monitoring.</p> <p> <b>Conduct Regular Regulation Reviews:</b> Periodically assess CO safety regulations to incorporate emerging technologies, address identified gaps, and align with evolving industry standards.</p> <p> <b>Advance Data Collection:</b> Study CO poisonings that otherwise are missed by standard tracking techniques.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Jersey</li> <li>• Virginia</li> <li>• Vermont</li> <li>• Alabama</li> <li>• California</li> <li>• Arkansas</li> </ul>
CO Safety Leader	
<p> <b>Mandate Regular Alarm Maintenance:</b> Require periodic inspections and maintenance of CO alarms by landlords, property owners, or certified technicians to ensure ongoing functionality.</p> <p> <b>Broaden Stakeholder Involvement:</b> Engage local governments, community organizations, and industry stakeholders in regular training and awareness sessions to further integrate CO safety into everyday practices.</p> <p> <b>Confirm Alarm Longevity/Reliability:</b> Promote adoption of CO alarms that adhere to safety standards.</p> <p> <b>Expand Tracking and Information:</b> Increase tracked details of CO poisonings and publish reports for public use (sources, severity, other determinants).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Washington</li> <li>• New York</li> <li>• Maryland</li> <li>• Wisconsin</li> <li>• North Carolina</li> <li>• Utah</li> <li>• Arizona</li> <li>• New Hampshire</li> <li>• Mississippi</li> <li>• Pennsylvania</li> <li>• Michigan</li> <li>• Connecticut</li> </ul>
CO Safety Advocate	
<p> <b>Build on Mandatory Installations:</b> Continue enforcing basic alarm requirements as established at the Starter level.</p> <p> <b>Enhance Public Outreach:</b> Launch targeted campaigns to educate vulnerable populations (e.g., renters, elderly, and low-income households) and stakeholders (doctors, HVAC technicians, construction, firefighters) and establish statewide CO awareness programs.</p> <p> <b>Encourage Alarm Installation:</b> Offer financial incentives for low-income or vulnerable households to install CO alarms that adhere to safety standards.</p> <p> <b>Strengthen Enforcement Mechanisms:</b> Implement penalties for non-compliance with CO safety regulations to ensure accountability.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Washington, D.C.</li> <li>• Indiana</li> <li>• Oregon</li> <li>• Massachusetts</li> <li>• Colorado</li> <li>• Georgia</li> <li>• Ohio</li> <li>• Wyoming</li> <li>• Iowa</li> <li>• Minnesota</li> <li>• Tennessee</li> <li>• Idaho</li> <li>• Kentucky</li> <li>• Oklahoma</li> <li>• New Mexico</li> <li>• Maine</li> <li>• Florida</li> <li>• South Carolina</li> <li>• Rhode Island</li> <li>• Montana</li> </ul>
CO Safety Starter	
<p> <b>Mandate Basic CO Alarm Requirements:</b> Require CO alarms that adhere to safety standards in all new and existing commercial, mixed-use, and residential buildings.</p> <p> <b>Launch Initial Public Outreach:</b> Launch targeted campaigns to educate vulnerable populations (e.g., renters, elderly, and low-income households) and establish statewide CO awareness programs.</p> <p> <b>Develop Emergency Response Programs:</b> Train first responders and healthcare professionals to handle CO poisoning cases effectively.</p> <p> <b>Collaborate with Federal Agencies:</b> Seek guidance and resources from organizations like the CDC to develop robust CO safety initiatives.</p> <p> <b>Monitor and Evaluate Progress:</b> Establish systems to track CO-related incidents and measure the effectiveness of new policies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alaska</li> <li>• Nevada</li> <li>• Illinois</li> <li>• West Virginia</li> <li>• Delaware</li> <li>• North Dakota</li> <li>• South Dakota</li> <li>• Louisiana</li> <li>• Hawaii</li> <li>• Texas</li> <li>• Nebraska</li> <li>• Kansas</li> <li>• Missouri</li> </ul>